

This is John Gullam with Community Comment

Graduation, Gardening, Crabs Baseball, the river, Sun, Vacations. Summer is here in Humboldt County and that means different things to different people. At the Blood Bank we start thinking about ways to be sure we meet the needs of the patients we serve. BBQ for Family Night on Wednesday, Bloodmobiles at Saturday events and fun things happening at the Blood Bank are all ways to get people's attention but the bottom line is that we need members of the community or we can't do what we do. We need all of our blood donors to donate twice this summer, we need 1,000 people who have never donated before to walk onto a bloodmobile or into the blood bank we can't do this without you. These are the things we need to do to maintain our Red Cell and Plasma needs but we also, as always are keenly aware of the changing needs in the medical community. In the first 6 months of this year we have distributed 3.2% fewer Red Cells than for the same period last year while, for the same period we have provided for patients 29.6% MORE platelets. The need for platelets is being driven by patient need and new therapies that only use platelets.

The most efficient way to collect platelets is by apheresis, a process.....

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This allows us to target our collections based current patient need, donor profile and a variety of other factors including flight times and airport delays.

If you are interesting in learning more about platelet donation please call the blood bank at 443-8004

If you give us 4 hours a year we will leave you the other 8,765 to mow the lawn – or fix the fence – or clean out the shed.

This has been John Gullam from the Northern California Community Blood Bank for Community Comment